

**FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya, 11 - 13 April 2016**

IPCC-XLIII/INF. 8, Add.4
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Agenda Item: 8.1
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SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) PRODUCTS

Special Reports

Commentary from the Co-chairs of Working Groups I, II and III on each of the proposals for Special Reports contained in document IPCC-XLIII/INF. 7

Additional contribution from UNESCO

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)



43rd Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
11-13 April 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

UNESCO STATEMENT

Thank you Chair for giving us the floor.

On behalf of Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director General of UNESCO, we would like to thank the Government of Kenya, UNEP and the IPCC secretariat for hosting and organizing this important meeting.

UNESCO is involved in the activities of IPCC through both his Natural Science Sector and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

As we moved towards the next IPCC Assessment Report (AR6) and Special Thematic Report, UNESCO would like to see a strong focus on more research to design practical solutions that enhance the sustainability of the ecosystem and stop deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss. The impacts of tropical cyclones, heavy rains and floods, drought and desertification, and sea-level rise are threatening economies, food security and lives of communities, especially in developing countries; these need strong investment in research and UNESCO will continue to collaborate with IPCC on these issues. UNESCO also believes that indigenous knowledge has great potential of engaging scientists with local communities and help building their resilience to climate change. We would like to continue working with IPCC on education and awareness, with special focus on women, as ways of strengthening abilities of communities to mitigate the negative impacts of Climate Change.

On the specific issue of oceans, UNESCO through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), would like to express support for the proposal by several member states for a Special Report on Oceans. Such report would strengthen further the visibility of Ocean issues and would be a powerful vehicle to attract the buy in policy makers. UNESCO finds this important and timely because the role of ocean as heat and carbon sink needs to be better projected, determining the feasibility of mitigation options, and also because conservation of the ocean ecosystems is not only important for life support but also as a mitigation option.

Both SDGs and COP-21 Agreement offer to UNESCO a wide range areas of intervention in sciences, education, communication and culture. Because of the availability of this broad expertise, UNESCO can offer its extensive networks, partners and partner projects. In addition, UNESCO will be able to reach scientists in its Member States, using its National Contacts System, and regional bodies, centres of excellences and chairs in various universities. This will result in better involvement of scientists from developing countries.

UNESCO hopes these perspectives will be of value to IPCC.

Thank you.